

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, simply a...I was going to talk again but Senator Schmit, I think, brought a good point in that we do have video lottery machines in the state illegally and one of the letters we got as part of the General Affairs Committee was from one of the gentlemen. He said there was 40 to 50,000 illegal machines in the state. And so I went to one of the law enforcement people that we have around here and I said, why don't you do something about them? They said, we really don't have...that's a low priority. So I think we need to take care...I think we need to clean up our house and I don't think that this is the place for it is in the Constitution. I think we should, like Senator Withem says, leave the issue as simple as possible, let the people decide and not tie the hands, our hands.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, I once again rise to state my opposition to the Smith amendment. I think Senator Withem pointed it out very well when he said as we are giving the question of whether or not the State of Nebraska should operate a lottery when we're giving that decision to the voters it probably is best that we give it to them in as simple a form possible and that would be LR 24 as advanced from committee, simply stating that the Legislature may establish a state lottery. I think the proper...the proper place to be debating the video issue is on the enabling legislation, is on LB 849 that we'll get to if we ever get off of LR 24. And I think, with that, I would urge your opposition to the Smith amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You mean to tell me finally...are there other speakers on this issue? None more?

SPEAKER BAACK: One more after you.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, maybe I...who is that person? Could I switch? Because I want...if there is only one more person, I'm just going to close.

SPEAKER BAACK: It's Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SMITH: I sure wouldn't want to preclude Senator Schmit